

November 28, 2020

## Bridge with Richard Ward

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<b>NORTH</b>		<b>S/ ALL VUL</b>
♠	A K Q J 3	
♥	Q 6 5 3 2	
♦	A 5	
♣	2	
<b>WEST</b>	<b>EAST</b>	
♠	7	
♥	10 8	
♦	10 9 8 7 3 2	
♣	Q 10 9 7	
<b>SOUTH</b>		
♠	5 4 2	
♥	A 4	
♦	K J	
♣	A K 8 6 4 3	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1NT
PASS	2H	PASS	2S
PASS	3H	PASS	4S
PASS	4NT	PASS	5H
PASS	5NT	PASS	6S
PASS			

Opposite a strong 1NT opening, blind Freddy was always going to bid to at least a small slam with the North cards. So she transferred to spades, bid her second suit, asked for key cards and then, knowing that all five (four aces and the trump king) were held asked for specific kings. If North had shown the king of hearts they would almost certainly have reached seven spades but, without it, six spades was sufficient.

West led the ten of diamonds and South could see that the slam depended on bring in extra tricks in either hearts or clubs. Declarer rejected playing on hearts because of the danger of a heart being ruffed by a defender with a trump higher than those in dummy. Needing later entries to hand, she won the diamond ace and drew four rounds of trumps, discarding a heart loser. She continued with ace, king and another club but, instead of ruffing it with the last trump, she allowed West's ten to hold the trick as a heart was discarded. Had clubs broken 3-3, this would have cost a trick but with clubs 4-2, this was a vital play. Now there were twelve tricks – five spades, one heart, two diamonds and four clubs. See what would have happened if she trumped earlier. Now, whatever red card is used to cross to hand, the defence will then be able to run the suit when in with the fourth club. There was an alternative play but harder to see at the table. Just duck the first round of clubs!

Today sees the start of the qualifying rounds of the ABF Online Teams playing on Real Bridge from 11am Saturday and Sunday with finals next weekend. Then there is the Sydney Spring National Online Pairs on 12-13 December.

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